

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204762
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MGT:KCHUMBORG/WDCALDERHEAD:JE
APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY
ARA/MGT:GJKRIEGER
ARA/MGT:WAHYDE
M/MO:RGMAYS
ARA:JABUSHNELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204762

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AODE, AFSP, APER

SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTIONS

REF: (A) 77 MEXICO 16259, (B) STATE 185439

1. EMBASSY REFTEL (A) PROPOSED THE REDUCTION OF TRAVEL
PROMOTION OFFICER POSITION FROM THE U.S. TRAVEL SERVICE
AND NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POSITION, BOTH DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE EMPLOYEES. SINCE DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL (B),
COMMERCE HAS MADE STRONG APPEAL TO RETAIN BOTH POSITIONS.

2. COMMERCE CLAIMS THAT THE TWO NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
POSITIONS IN MEXICO CITY AND THE THREE U.S. TECHNICIANS
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AT CHIHUAHUA, EMPALME, AND MONTERREY ARE NECESSARY TO
"PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE MEXICAN
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE (MMS) AND HELP ENSURE THAT THE
UPPER-AIR FACILITIES OF MMS OPERATE ON A REGULAR AND
RELIABLE BASIS." THE UNITED STATES, COMMERCE CLAIMS,
RELIES HEAVILY ON THE TWELVE MMS STATIONS "FOR BOTH LONG
AND SHORT-RANGE WEATHER FORECASTS AND STORM PREDICTIONS."

REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE TO A "COMMITMENT" STIPULATED IN
USG/GOM MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, SIGNED JULY 31, 1970,
AND SINCE AMENDED.

3. COMMERCE ALSO CLAIMS THE REDUCTION OF THE USTS TRAVEL
PROMOTION OFFICER "WOULD SERIOUSLY ERODE OUR ABILITY TO
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEXICAN VISITORS TO THE UNITED
STATES" AND "WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE
TOURISM AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BY THE U.S. AND MEXICO."

4. FROM THE WASHINGTON VANTAGE POINT, IT STILL APPEARS
POSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THE SECOND AMERICAN NWS POSITION
AT MEXICO CITY. EVEN STRONGER IS THE BUREAU'S BELIEF
THAT ONE USTS OFFICER CAN BE SPARED WITHOUT CURTAILING
THE EVER-GROWING NUMBER OF MEXICAN VISITORS COMING TO
THE U.S. AS THE BUREAU PREPARES, WITHIN MODE GUIDELINES,
TO MAKE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELIMINATING AMERICAN
AND LOCAL POSITIONS FROM VARIOUS AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT
CEILINGS THROUGHOUT ARA, WE REQUEST YOUR FINAL THOUGHTS
ABOUT THESE POSITIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT'S APPEAL. CHRISTOPHER

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